



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 20, 2004

S. 434

Idaho Panhandle National Forest Improvement Act of 2003

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on September 15, 2004

CBO estimates that enacting S. 434 would not significantly affect the federal budget. The legislation would increase both offsetting receipts and the spending of such receipts, but we estimate that the net impact on direct spending would not exceed \$500,000. S. 434 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no significant costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

S. 434 would authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to sell or exchange certain federal land in Idaho. The act would authorize the Secretary to spend, without further appropriation, any proceeds from land sales to acquire, construct, or rehabilitate administrative facilities within the Idaho Panhandle National Forest.

According to the Forest Service, the federal land to be sold or exchanged currently does not generate significant receipts and is not expected to do so over the next 10 years. By providing authority for the Secretary to sell that land, CBO expects that enacting S. 434 would increase offsetting receipts (a credit against direct spending) from land sales. Based on information from the Forest Service regarding the value of the affected land, CBO estimates that the proceeds from such sales would total between \$500,000 and \$750,000 in fiscal year 2005. We also estimate that those proceeds would largely be spent in the same year they are received; hence, we estimate that the net change in direct spending would be negligible.

On August 1, 2003, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for S. 434 as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on July 23, 2003. The two versions of S. 434 are similar, and our estimates of sale proceeds and direct spending are the same under both versions. Differences in our estimates reflect a change in the assumed enactment date.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Megan Carroll. This estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.